

GR 270

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FM HOLY SEE 091430Z JUN 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 14 OF 9 JUNE 1981

1. FOLLOWING IS MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, THE RT HON. HUMPHREY ATKINS MP, FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH ARCHBISHOP SILVESTRINI.

2. BEGINS:

" I WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE, THROUGH THE KINDNESS OF THE BRITISH LEGATION TO THE HOLY SEE, YOUR MESSAGE OF 30TH APRIL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY FR JOHN MAGEE, AS A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY FATHER.

"SINCE THEN THE SITUATION IN THAT AREA HAS FURTHER DETORiated: THE TRAGIC TOLL OF DEATHS CONTINUES, BOTH AMONG THE HUNGER STRIKERS AND AMONG THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM.

"I AM SURE YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE HEARTFELT PREOCCUPATION WITH WHICH THE HOLY FATHER FOLLOWS THE WORSENING OF THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND PRAYS THAT THROUGH THE WISDOM AND HUMANE FORESIGHT OF ALL CONCERNED, A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE MAY BE FOUND AND THE TRAGIC CHAIN OF VIOLENCE MAY FINALLY BE BROKEN.

"I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION WITH WHICH I HAVE NOTED HOW THE PRIME MINISTER MRS MARGARET THATCHER, IN HER SPEECH AT STORMONT ON 28TH MAY, QUOTED THE POPE'S ADDRESS IN DROGHEDA, DURING HIS VISIT TO IRELAND IN 1979.

"I GREATLY HOPE THAT THE CALL OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR AN END TO EVERY FORM OF VIOLENCE AND FOR A SEARCH FOR 'A PEACEFUL POLITICAL WAY TO JUSTICE' (IBID., NO.14) WILL FINALLY BE GIVEN A POSITIVE HEARING". ENDS.

3. PLEASE CONVEY TO ADDRESSEE.

4. THE CONFIRMATORY TEXT AND SEPARATE LETTER TO HEAD OF REPUBLIC OF IRELAND DEPARTMENT FOLLOW BY BAG.

HEATH

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